

The Urban District Council of March.

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1941.

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

Medical Officers have been requested by the Ministry of Health to refrain from quoting figures supplied by the Registrar General which may enable any substantial series of local populations to be reconstructed.

We are also asked to confine our remarks to essential matters with the object of saving paper.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

J.F.Dawson.

Medical Officer of Health.

S T A F F .

Medical Officer of Health.

J.F.Dawson. M.B., B.Ch.,
D.P.H.

Engineer, Surveyor and Sanitary
Inspector (until 28th Sept.1941)

W.S.Pickett. M.Inst. M. &
Cy.E., A.M.S.E., M.Inst.R.A.,
M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector
(until 31st August 1941)

P.McKenna. A.R.San.I.,
M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector
(from 29th September 1941)

H.Wall. M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following conclusions can be drawn from the statistics supplied by the Registrar General:-

The Birth Rate has increased.

The Death Rate has also increased.

The increase in the Birth Rate is greater than the increase in the Death Rate.

The number of Deaths from Cancer has also increased.

There is a decrease in the Infant Mortality rate.

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Laboratory Facilities.
Nursing in the Home.
Ambulance Facilities.
Clinics.
Hospitals.
Air Raid Precautions.

Facilities available under the above headings have not changed since 1940.

Infectious Diseases.

An outbreak of Measles occurred in the first three months of the year. 115 cases were notified. No deaths were reported.

There was a falling off in the number of Whooping Cough cases. Only 17 cases were notified compared with 53 the previous year.

Scarlet Fever accounted for 26 of the cases of infectious disease notified. It is a remarkable fact that 24 of these cases occurred on the North side of the river.

A number of the cases of Scarlet Fever occurring, are so mild as to go unnoticed by the parents, with the result that the cases are not isolated early and infection is spread. For several reasons parents should call medical attention when a child complains of a sore throat. Sore throats are often in themselves infectious. A sore throat may be the first sign of Scarlet Fever. A sore throat in its mildest form may be a case of Diphtheria!!

6 cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year. Although for the past 3 years the incidence of this disease has declined in this district, the occurrence of 6 cases this year indicated that the response by parents to have their children immunised has not been sufficient. It is disappointing to note that parents do not take the trouble to have their younger children protected. Parents should make it a point of having their children treated when they reach the age of one year.

Drainage and Sewerage.

I cannot let this report go without again drawing attention to the deplorable state of the sewerage disposal system in the town. The smell which so often emanates from the river is sufficient evidence of the condition.

Housing.

There are a great number of houses in March which in peace time would be condemned as unfit for human habitation.

The rehousing of men in the services and their families, and the need for a general improvement in housing conditions in the town, are two factors which call for the immediate consideration of the Council.

Plans for post war housing should now be made so that they can quickly be put into effect when hostilities cease.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Inspections of Dairy Premises and cowsheds are made with a view to enforcing the Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders.

Mr Wall, your Sanitary Inspector, has supplied me with the following note on the inspection of Meat and Food.

During the year close attention has been given to the inspection of meat at the Government controlled slaughterhouses in the town, and with the active co-operation of the slaughterhouse manager the following carcasses have been examined - 1,002 Beasts, 187 Calves, 2,045 Sheep and 751 Pigs - a total of 3,985.

Of these carcasses, 41 Beasts, 2 Calves, 4 Sheep and 26 Pigs were condemned as unfit for human consumption, together with miscellaneous flesh and offal - a total weight of over 14 tons.

It is only right to point out that the majority of carcasses which were condemned were of casualty animals sent in for slaughter from the surrounding districts. The quality of meat from animals received from the markets was of very high standard and only a very small proportion was found to be unfit for food.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The figures below show the number of children that have been immunised during the year.

Children between 1-5	130	or 16.2% of the pre school population.
Children between 5-15	330	or 14.04% of the school going population.

It is expected that these figures will be improved upon during 1942.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING 1941.

For the Urban District of March.

Disease.	No. of Cases.	Age Groups.											Deaths.
		Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 & over.
Scarlet Fever.	26			1	4	4	13	2	2				
Diphtheria.	6		1			1	3			1			
Pneumonia.													
Puerperal Fever.	1								1				
Erysipelas.	2										2		
Cerebrospinal Fever.	1							1					
Enteric Fever.													
Acute Poliomyelitis													
Whooping Cough.	17	4	3	3	1	1	5	1					
Measles.	115	6	15	9	12	20	42	9	1	1			

TABLE SHOWING INCIDENCE OF TUBERCULOSIS DURING 1941.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 -								
1 -		1		1				
5 -			1	1				
15 -				1				
25 -	2	1	1		1			
35 -								
45 -						1		
55 -								
65 and upwards.								
Totals	2	2	2	3	1	1	-	-